

the career path they've chose to pursue. Nothing is more rewarding than to watch someone who is struggling and wearing a look of despair suddenly transform. You can begin to see hope in their eyes and the beginning of a smile."

There are many aspects of inner-city life that are not pretty. Abdul-Samad and his co-workers come face to face with often grim and gritty circumstances that most people would not want to even hear about, much less confront. Teen pregnancies, venereal diseases, drug overdoses, stabbings, are all part of the realities Creative Visions' counselors face each day. Abdul-Samad credits his relationship with God with helping him get through his pain. He also copes through the pen—often writing poetry at 3 a.m., which relaxes him and had led to the release of his first book, *A Deeper Truth/Relevations From the Soul*.

Abdul-Samad has spent most of his 53 years giving to others. Even as a child he tended to wounded animals or fixed broken bicycles and then gave them away to neighborhood kids. By the time he was 18, he was aligned with an organization that fed 300 children each morning—long before the school system began offering free breakfasts. "This was all during the 1960s, a good time in which to have grown up because of all the consciousness-raising going on—women's rights, civil rights, human rights," says Abdul-Samad. "Anyone young who got caught up in the counter-culture movement at that time couldn't help but identify with people who were struggling."

After eight years, the vision Ako Abdul-Samad conceived and built is flourishing. Almost two dozen programs are now operating through his center, from computer classes to 12-step meetings. Since its inception, Creative Visions has attracted and helped more than 6,500 men, women, and at-risk children and youth. Now calls are coming in from cities around the United States—and other countries including Mexico, the Netherlands, and Nigeria—also interested in starting similar organizations.

Abdul-Samad knows that many of the battles he undertakes won't be won in his lifetime. But his philosophy is to plant a seed, and he has planted many.●

REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and share with my colleagues the compassion and dedication of Reverend Cecil Williams in honor of his 40 years of community service to the San Francisco community.

Reverend Williams has been Pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church since the early 1960s. He has built a community congregation of over 10,000 members and is recognized as a national leader on the leading edge of social change.

Reverend Williams has led Glide Memorial Church to be a political voice for equal rights and a safe haven for the oppressed. His congregation has lent its support to those who speak out on national issues of importance, such as the Vietnam war, nuclear weapon development, affirmative action and HIV/AIDS prevention.

When Reverend Williams joined Glide Memorial Church in the 1960s, he transformed it into a sacred space that honors diversity, expression, and the celebration of life.

I would like to share a couple examples of Reverend Williams' tremendous

work. In the 1960s, Reverend Williams launched a free meal program at Glide that expanded in the 1980s to providing three meals a day to the hungry and homeless. The program currently serves over 1 million meals a year to members of the larger San Francisco community.

In the 1990s, feeling the need to reach out to those involved in drug abuse, Reverend Williams took his message against drugs into the community, using a bullhorn in front of housing projects to call addicts and dealers out to recovery.

As Reverend Williams begins his 40th year at Glide Memorial Church, he is now serving as Glide's CEO and Minister of National and International Ministries. He continues to bring forth new ideas on how to battle the problems inflicting the San Francisco community, including poverty, drug abuse, violence and despair. He is a respected and revered leader who brings together people searching for acceptance, social justice and spiritual growth.

I hope you will all join me in celebrating the remarkable service of Reverend Cecil Williams for the past 40 years at Glide Memorial Church. I wish him many more years of rewarding experiences to the San Francisco community and beyond.●

IN TRIBUTE TO RHODE ISLAND BROADCASTING LEGEND SALTY BRINE

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a great Rhode Islander who passed away on Election Day: Walter L "Salty" Brine.

Salty Brine was a local broadcasting legend one might even say he was the voice of Rhode Island. For half a century, he hosted the morning program on WPRO-AM. It was Salty's voice that thrilled three generations of schoolchildren on snowy mornings with the announcement, "No school, Foster-Gloicester!"

Salty's show was the soundtrack of a Rhode Island morning. The sound of his voice conjures up the following scene: It is dark outside, a bowl of steaming oatmeal is on the kitchen table, there is a mad scramble to locate a missing mitten before the school bus arrives.

Salty would preside over the recounting of the news and the weather. His wife Mickie would call in and give a report on what birds were at the birdfeeder. We would be on the edges of our seats waiting for him to say our school was closed. I suppose it is fair to say that Rhode Islanders associate Salty Brine with that singular elation aroused by a snow day. Salty was the ultimate bearer of good news.

Of course, Salty's career encompassed much more than reading the rollof of school closures. From 1958 to 1968, he hosted a children's television program called "Salty Brine's Shack," which costarred his collie Jack and ended reliably with the admonition, "Brush your teeth and say your pray-

ers!" Having lost a leg in a train accident when he was a boy, Salty was a firm support and wonderful example for youngsters who were coping with a similar disability. Salty would demonstrate how the loss of a limb really would not set them back one bit.

Many charitable endeavors benefited from Salty's talent, energy, and good name. He was especially involved in the Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and was a board member, appropriately enough, of Save the Bay. Cardi's Furniture for whom he had recorded a trademark commercial—honored Salty for his service to our community just last year.

Born in 1918, Salty's life was framed by Red Sox World Series victories. This is entirely appropriate, as Salty was an ardent and devoted fan and even had aspired to be a ball player. Just last August, on Rhode Island Day at Fenway Park, Salty Brine was given the well-deserved honor of throwing out the first pitch.

Like the Big Blue Bug and Mr. Potato Head, Salty Brine, with his skipper's hat, was a Rhode Island icon, a one-of-a-kind and endearing institution that bound all Rhode Islanders together in a single fond experience. He was so much a part of our landscape that the legislature renamed a Narragansett State beach after him. The Salty Brine Beach endures as a permanent affirmation of our affection for our Salty.

Salty Brine was married to his first wife, Marion, known to all as Mickie, for 56 years. She died in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Roseanna, and his son Wally, who co-hosts the "Loren & Wally Morning Show" on WROR-FM in Boston.

Rhode Island will miss him.●

RETIREMENT OF VEE BURKE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I commend Ms. Vee Burke for her years of public service as a member of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. She has demonstrated an enormous capacity for public service and tremendous insight on social policy. In over 30 years working for the CRS, Vee has proven herself to be a true expert in the field of public welfare.

Through her hard work and dedication, Vee has provided background reports and thoughtful analysis of low-income programs, especially welfare reform. Members need timely and clear information in order to make informed policy decisions. Vee has provided such information for many years. Her ability to immerse herself in the specific details of each program assured the completeness of her reports, and her consistent presence from one year to the next was essential in maintaining an overview of the larger welfare system that the individual programs collectively represent.

At the end of this month, Vee will be retiring from CRS. While she will be